

DR. FREDERIC WEBSTER GODING

MAY 9, 1858—MAY 5, 1933

BY CHRIS E. OLSEN

It is with deep regret for the loss of an esteemed friend and entomologist that I have acceded to complete the editing of the following paper, which was to be the last of a long series of papers on Membracidae and the crowning of the life work in entomology of the late Dr. Frederic Webster Goding.

Dr. Goding's last wish, in his aged and infirm condition, was to be spared long enough to see this work completed and in print. This wish he practically attained. He saw the paper accepted by the New York Entomological Society and the first installment of it in galley proof, while the rest of the manuscript, still in his possession, required but little attention; he had completed the study of all material.

It has been my great privilege and pleasure for a number of years to assist Dr. Goding in supplying translations of articles in foreign languages with which he was unfamiliar, with transcriptions of articles from more or less rare volumes that were not accessible to him, and with photographs of published plates on Membracidae for many of his later papers. Through this we formed a close friendship and many noteworthy characteristics were revealed to me of his otherwise retiring and quiet personality.

As an entomologist Dr. Goding was remarkable in many ways. The outstanding part of his lengthy entomological bibliography is his work on the membracid group. He spent close to half a century in the study of this insect family. Early in his career, and to the end, he was regarded as a prominent student in this field of research.

His entomological career dates back to 1884 when he became assistant state entomologist of Illinois; this position he held until 1895. During 1885-86 he also held the chair of Natural Sciences at Loudon College, Tennessee.

In 1898 he entered the U. S. diplomatic service, in which he continued for nearly thirty years, first as consul to New South Wales and Queensland in Australia, later to Uruguay and Ecuador, South America. During these years, membracid taxonomy was his hobby and recreation, and in the last few years that he spent in Livermore Falls, Maine, the homestead of the Goding family for generations, this study became his only remaining love in life.

In observing Dr. Goding as I did, it was obvious that his thirty years of foreign service, although grand and glorious to begin with, had left a very unpleasant effect upon his retirement. In this period, when considerable changing of his early surroundings had taken place, he found himself alone, having lost his wife in South America. Most of his entomological colleagues, many of whom he had splendidly lauded in his pen sketches, were now only memories. New friends were strangers and strangers were not cognizant of the return of a former mayor, or a once practising physician, or a past assistant state entomologist, but just of the return from foreign service of an old-time resident. However, while all his old-time pals had changed, scattered, or were gone, the "Bugs" were and still remained the same unchanged loyal pals.

Within his remaining family circle he was particularly sad to discover that his very own son and daughter had lost the ability of paternal recognition, the affection that a father expects his children to maintain. He tried in various ways to compensate for what he thought was his own parental negligence, but it was too late. His children were children no longer, but belonged to the men and women who, by fate or failure, are destined to carve a meager livelihood for the mere privilege of existing in this, we are prone to call, "advanced age of civilization."

Dr. Goding wrote many biographical sketches, "pen sketches," and *memoriæ*. One has but to read one of these to form an opinion of his splendid character and exceptionally friendly personality.

To those of his friends that remain he leaves a lasting memory and his name in membracid literature will never die.

The ancestry of Dr. Goding on both sides dates from the Pilgrim Fathers. He is survived by a son and a daughter, both living in Livermore Falls, Maine.

Some of Dr. Goding's Various Activities

Early education was received in Public School, Chicago. Later he became a public-school teacher in the state of Illinois.

Received his M.D. degree from Northwestern University in 1882. Practiced medicine until 1898.

He was a delegate to the Republican State Convention of Illinois when Governors Fifer and Tanner were elected 1886-1896. Mayor of Rutland, Ill., for nearly ten years, 1887-1897.

During his service as American Consul to New South Wales and Queensland he wrote many valuable reports on commerce and industry of Australia. These reports were in a great measure responsible for increased trade between Australia and the U. S. A.

Published Corporation Ordinance of Rutland, Ill., 1880. A long list of entomological papers, biographical sketches, memorials, and the genealogy of the Goding family.

Discovered the secret of tempering copper similar to the method used by the ancients, also devised means for welding copper to iron and steel. These inventions were turned over to the U. S. Government.

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NOTE ON THE FOOD OF THE BLACK WIDOW SPIDER¹

By HARRIET EXLINE AND MELVILLE H. HATCH

In western Washington the Black Widow spider (*Latrodectus Mactans* F.) is known only from Whidby Island, Fidalgo Island, and some of the San Juan Islands. In the latter locality one of us (H.E.) in the summer of 1934 collected such an extensive series of the remains of animals, mostly Coleoptera, that had apparently served as the prey of this spider that it was thought worthwhile to publish a list thereof.

The specimens reported on were obtained from a total of seven

¹ Contribution from the Zoological Laboratory of the University of Washington.